

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XA, IS, US
SUBJ: ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AFRICA

REF: STATE 209708

FOLLOWING IS ASSESSMENT REQUESTED REFTEL:

A) MOBUTU'S DESIRE TO AVOID GOING FROM EXTREME (I.E. BREAKING OF RELATIONS) TO EXTREMISM (EXPULSION FROM UN) SUGGESTS OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ISRAEL. HOWEVER GIVEN MOBUTU'S PREFERRED MODUS OPERANDI OF WORKING QUIETLY AND EFFECTIVELY, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT NORMALIZATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME. HIS POSITION ON SOUTH AFRICA IS INDICATIVE OF WAY HE OPERATES: DISCREETLY MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, GETTING LINE OF CREDIT (KINSHSA 7358) AND OPPOSING EXPULSION FROM UN, WHILE KEEPING PUBLIC DISTANCE. HE IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE FOR A WHILE IN CASE OF ISRAEL.

B) MOBUTU'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO FOSTER AFR/ARAB SOLIDARITY AND HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC DISTANCE FROM ISRAEL WILL COLOR HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD AN ISRAELI DEMARCHE. ANTICIPATE THEREFORE AN ISRAELI APPROACH WOULD BE MET WITH FLAT REFUSAL TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

C) MOBUTU'S RESPONSE TO A NORMAL (I.E. DIPLOMATIC) US DEMARCHE IS LIKELY TO BE MORE EQUIVOCAL. HE WILL PROBABLY RECALL THAT POSITION HE

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ADOPTED IN KAMPLA AND LIMA WAS TAKEN AT THIS OWN INITIATIVE, WITHOUT

CONSULTATION WITH U.S. WHILE NOT GIVING U.S. OUTRIGHT COLD SHOULDER,
HIS RESPONSE WILL BE THAT HE MAKES HIS OWN DECISION.

D) SINCE HE DETERMINES GOZ POLICY ON MAJOR ISSUES WITH LITTLE OR NO
CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MOBUTU SHOULD BE
DIRECTLY APPROACHED. SUCH A DEMARCHE SHOULD BE HANDLED DISCREETLY,
WITH NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OR LARGE DELEGATIONS. AS NOTED IN
PARA A, THIS IS METHOD HE PREFERS TO FOLLOW. DEMARCHE TO FOMIN, WHO
NOW IN N.Y. MAY NOT BE PROPER CHANNEL SINCE THIS IS MATER WHICH
MOBUTU HANDLING DIRECTLY OUT OF HIS OFFICE.

2. IDEALLY, DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND MOBUTU
LIKELY
TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE. MOBUTU STILL EXPECTING SOME U.S. REACTION TO
POSITION HE TOOK IN KAMPALA AND LIMA. AS SUGGESTED IN KINSHASA'S
7156, PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY WOULD ENCOURAGE MOBUTU TO KEEP
UP HIS HELPFUL LOBBYING. IN ADDITION, MESSAGE COULD INQUIRE INTO
POSSIBILITIES OF SOME AFRICAN STATES RESTORING RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL. IF THIS OPTION CHOSEN, MESSAGE SHOULD BE CUCHED IN TERMS
WHICH RECOGNIZE MOBUTU'S LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA AND THIRD WORLD
AND WHICH SOLICIT HIS ADVISE.

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